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of international organization without first a careful reading of this classic. Mr. Ladd's fifteen chapters are models of clear and convincing expression. First to propose an international Congress and High Court of Nations, his exposition requires little, if any, change in the light of the many wars that have devastated the earth since 1840. His principles are the principles which resulted in the great international conferences of 1899 and 1907.

It is especially fitting, therefore, that the next book should treat of The Hague Peace Conferences, of the instructions by Secretary Hay to the American delegates in 1899, and of Secretary Root's in 1907. The reports of the American delegates to the two conferences are important and convincing arguments in favor of international justice.

Since the most important fact, besides the fact of The Hague Conferences themselves, is the agreement in 1907 that there should be an international court of arbitral justice, it is especially fitting that the next book should treat of the status of the international court of justice prior to the present war. In the language of Mr. Elihu Root, this book "came at just the right time, because on all these subjects we shall have to take a new departure after the war, and this paper is a summing up of the status of peacable settlement at the close of the period."

Last, but by no means least important, we have the draft conventions showing how near the establishment of that international supreme court really was at the outbreak of war in August, 1914. This last volume, a masterpiece of English, represents the last steps in the direction of world order. Dr. Scott's prefatory note to this volume is a heartening and inspiring utterance. It reads:

"In an address delivered on the first day of February, 1916, at Des Moines, Iowa, President Wilson said:

"You know that there is no international tribunal, my fellow-citizens. I pray God that if this contest have no other result, it will at least have the result of creating an international tribunal and producing some sort of joint guarantee of peace on the part of the great nations of the world."

"This little volume, published with the permission of the Honorable Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States, because without his permission the official documents which it contains could not properly be made public, is intended to show the progress already made in creating the international tribunal, of which the President of the United States is such an earnest and such a convinced advocate.

"In calling attention, as this little volume does, to the co-operation of Germany, France, Great Britain, and the United States in the cause of international justice, the undersigned ventures the hope that these four nations may soon again co-operate as fellow-workers in the cause of international justice, for they must needs co-operate in this cause if justice is one day to regulate the conduct of nations."

These books, we repeat, are important books. They are important because the institutions indispensable to enduring peace must be established at the last by states-

men. We have here five invaluable storehouses of quickening, indeed, necessary, information for those statesmen who are to reorganize our world at the close of the present war. Lawmakers, scholars, students, laymen, desiring to acquaint themselves with the essential facts bearing upon a hopeful international organization that shall mean international peace will wish to study with care these five important volumes.

EVERY PUBLIC BUILDING A FORT

PREPAREDNESS, that is the word. It is our most spurious word. It is used explosively by men, tearfully by women, and lispingly by children. The word is defined exclusively in terms of a larger army and a larger navy. It is the plow-point of many a favorite Congressional enterprise. Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, feelingly confessed the other day that nearly everything introduced thus far in the Senate has something in relation to preparedness. To quote:

"We spent five weeks on a power-dam bill. It was insisted that it was a question of preparedness. We passed from that to another power-dam bill, and that was a question of preparedness. Now we seem to have another dam proposition. It seems as if we have just one dam bill after another. Everything is under the cloak of preparedness."

The child-labor bill is called a preparedness measure, and the same is true of the rural-credits bill. The river and harbor bill, with its infinite appropriations for rivers that are not rivers and harbors that are not harbors, will continue to rest firmly upon the foundations of preparedness and pork. We judge that the public-buildings bill is looming large as a series of important measures in the interest of a pecuniary piffle and a much-needed preparedness.

Indeed, a former constituent of a United States Senator has written urging, as one feature of preparedness, the question of appropriations for public buildings. He urges his Senator to cease opposing items in the public-buildings bill, especially those for public buildings in small towns. The constituent says:

"We are expecting a public building in our town. Our member of Congress promised it to us during the campaign, and we are entitled to it. Besides, think of what it may mean along the lines of preparedness. The public buildings to be constructed in the future should be constructed as a sort of fort. A round building is just as feasible as a square one for post-office purposes; then, when we are at the front fighting the battles of our country our wives and children can stay in the public building, if it is constructed as a fort, and we will feel that they are safe from foreign invaders.

"If you are really a lover of your country, do not oppose any appropriations for public buildings. Of course, if you intend to side against your country and sympathize with its foes, and be untrue to the flag that means so much to us, then we cannot expect any help from you in securing our public building."

Here we have a patriotic citizen, a constituent who

would advance the whole program of preparedness materially. Every public building a fort! There you have efficiency, a kind of preparedness which is indeed concrete.

While our ideas come hard, and we constantly need them in our business, let us carry this thought on a little and be consistent. Why forget our railroad locomotives? Surely each should be mounted with a 42-centimeter howitzer at once. There are no engineering difficulties involved which seem to us insurmountable. Anyhow, every engine has an engineer. It might necessitate the raising of a few bridges, but when everything else around us is rising with such perfect freedom, that would be a small matter. The expense of caring for the gun would by this process be greatly reduced for the reason that its welfare in time of peace or war could be left wholly and appropriately to the fireman. It has always seemed to us strange that guns have not heretofore been exclusively in the charge of firemen. Anyhow, such a saving to our government should not be overlooked. Again, while we are not as expert with mitrailleuses as we might be, yet from what we know of them we feel that at least three might be very properly placed on the top of every watering cart, and at least two on each ice wagon in our national life. As will be readily seen, the watering carts operating night and day would lend themselves especially to a very important aspect of preparedness. The ice cart, being a permanent institution throughout our land, would lend itself particularly for service in the daytime. Then, too, if every Ford automobile were obliged to carry an aeroplane destroyer we would be perfectly prepared, so far as danger from the air is concerned. But why go on? The wealth of suggestions is overwhelming, the possibilities infinite. If the government, for example, were to take over the hat-manufacturing industries and supply each hat with revolving automatic rapid-fire guns, necessarily of a small calibre—we refer to men's hats only—then we would have a citizen soldiery indeed without interrupting the ordinary wheels of industry. Needless to say, ladies' hats lend themselves to infinite possibilities of preparedness treatment, of which the extension of hatpins is but one instance in point.

Is it not clear that those responsible for our defense in this country are derelict in their duty, lacking in vision, nodding, we may say, at the switch? Preparedness, preparedness for our dear political homes and fire-sides, that is the idea. Steel tips for pointed shoes have received little attention, while suspenders strong enough to throw grenades, so far as we know, have not even been mentioned. But every public building a fort! That need is immediate, pressing, and mandatory. When will those responsible for the defense of this great nation rise to the demands of our enlightened age?

EDITORIAL NOTES

Labor and Preparedness and Peace.

A program for preparedness endorsed by 300,000 members of the Chicago Federation of Labor has been

laid before the members of all other labor unions in this country for approval. The program points out that preparedness is needed in the United States, but that it must be based upon physical fitness. Patriotism is also needed, but it must be a patriotism based upon love of country and a country which guarantees liberty and opportunity. The report declares that a great army and navy, unless democratized and placed within the control of the people, with leaders responsible to the people as a whole, will be a powerful instrument for the conversion of the country into a commercial oligarchy. The report emphasizes the importance of industrial organization, the public ownership of arms and munition factories, as well as the mines, forests, and other natural resources supplying raw material, together with the railroads and means of transportation. The committee favors the passage of the Keating child-labor bill, which prohibits interstate transportation of the products of child labor. It would raise the age limit in child labor and compulsory education laws to sixteen years. It would pension mothers for the protection of the children. It would secure clean, healthful living conditions for the poorest of the population. It would provide for outdoor physical training in connection with the public schools to be continued during the summer vacation; this training to include instruction in the laws of health, in woodcraft and nature study, cooking, camp-making, first aid in case of accident. And, not least, it should endeavor to develop the instinct of healthy co-operation. The report says:

"To put guns in the hands of children for this work would be vicious; to imitate guns with sticks would be silly."

It is recommended that organized labor be alive and awake to see that in any system of citizen soldiery the greatest possible freedom and democracy shall prevail; that the men shall be given education in civic affairs and the fullest opportunity for promotion from the ranks. Any military system, it says, "should be democratically officered and controlled by heads directly responsible to the citizens." The report concludes with the statement that the committee is opposed to any increase of the standing army. The danger to the American workmen from foreign countries is not so much the danger of an attack by their governments; the real danger is from the hordes of helpless underfed foreign immigrants who are brought into this country by the great manufacturing interests which want cheap labor.

The American Federation of Labor has proposed a